

## [International Bridge]

Beliefs and Customs - Folk Stuff

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited) 12

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Arnold Manoff

ADDRESS 20 West 125th Street

DATE February 16, 1939

SUBJECT INTERNATIONAL Bridge Construction Steel and Iron Worker's Union.  
(continued)

SAM

Ya lookin fer Chris? He's workin. Yeh. He's on the Sixth Ave. [ol?] job. I remember you. You were aroun here talkin to Chris. I was there too. I ain't got nothin to tell ya. We don like to talk aroun here. We got our own worries. Ask Mike over there. He'll tell ya lotsa stories. Hey Mike! Here's a feller wants ya to tell him stories. Ya see he ain interested.

Anything they know they keep to themselves. Does a prisoner talk? Well it's the same way. The men don't feel like tellin no stories. It's just like a prisoner, y'unnerstan'?

## Library of Congress

Listen. Whaddya wan'me to tell ya? I worked in 42 states Cuba, Alaska, Honolulu. I worked in the steel mill, and the iron foundries, inside and out, Bethlehem Steel and udders. See this leg? Broken three times. I got three ribs broken. Ya aint an iron worker if ya aint had bones broken, fingers chopped off. Ya see whaddya they gonna tell ya? Dey don't feel like talkin. They keep these things ta themselves. I know the kind of stuff ya want. We aint got any time for that kinda stuff. The [man?] aint interested.

Listen I been in this racket 24 years. I just got off a job. They laid us off on the Sixth Ave [ol?]. The subway people wuz complainin. There was a meetin about it. We're all laid of except for one gang on 28th St.

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I wuz on that airport job. Yeh for the WPA. I got drunk. Did ya see a sign up on the bulletin board about John Hennessey. He was the guy that got drunk with me. The whiskey killed him. Ya think I'm lyin. Ask anybody here. I'm not lyin. He died. They wanted ta know how come I'm not dead. We drank a quart and a half in two hours. Each one a quart an a half. Three quarts all together. Hennessey died from it. I'm alive.

Monday, I'm goin on a job. Over on 86th St. 12 story buildin. That'll last a mont and a half about that much. Then they'll be beggin us to come ta work. There's a 12 million dollar prison job startin up in Greenhaven. Take 2 1/2 years. Not me! A year is enough for me. Work a year and quit. Nice work all inside on the cells. Bethlehem Steel is in on it.

Naa the men don feel like talkin. I know what ya mean. Naa we don' do that kinda stuff. Tell stories, naa. That's bullshit. We don go in fer it. We don go in fer braggin. No lyin. That's kid stuff. That's show off stuff. We ain got any time fer it. We like to drink but that's all. We don't have those kind of guys aroun here. Look at em. They never talk. They ain interested in it. They'll laugh at ya.

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What ya wanna get is the people that stan around and watch us work. They do all the talkin. They bullshit all the time. We don do it. It don concern us. We do the work up there, rivetin and we ain got time fer talkin.

There ain nothin in it for us, no money nuthin, so long, o.k.